

James T. Johnson, Jr. and his wife Pamela Johnson. Dr. Johnson has been the director of the AAMI since its founding, and Mrs. Johnson serves as manager of this non-profit organization. They have worked tirelessly over the last 20 years to expand and improve the programs offered by the AAMI.

For the past 20 years, the AAMI has trained musicians of all ages and backgrounds in jazz, gospel, and blues for voice and instruments. Over that period of time, the Afro-American Music Institute has trained thousands of students. In addition to vocal and instrumental instruction, the AAMI curriculum includes such subjects as directing, improvisation, song writing and arrangement, and music theory, as well as the technical and managerial aspects of musical performance. The AAMI sponsors several musical ensembles, including a youth jazz group, a sacred music choir, a boys' choir, and a faculty ensemble.

The Institute was originally located in St. James AME Church in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood, but in 1992, it incorporated and moved to its current location at 7227 Tioga Street. The AAMI has plans to relocate to a new building on Hamilton Avenue early next year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I want to commend Dr. and Mrs. Johnson and the faculty and students of the Afro-American Music Institute for their educational and cultural contributions to our community and wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 477, final passage of H.R. 5710, The Homeland Security Act of 2002, I was detained in traffic from an event honoring federal employees. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE CARRIE MEEK

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my dear colleague, Carrie Meek, whom I have had the privilege of working with from the great state of Florida.

A freshman from the class of 1992, Carrie represents Florida's 17th district, encompassing large portions of my hometown, Miami.

In her very first term, we were all impressed by her ability to win a seat on the Appropriations Committee, the only freshman Democrat to do so. She has also served admirably on the Treasury Postal Service and VA/HUD Committees, consistently advocating on behalf of African Americans, fighting for job creation and business development through Federal programs.

Always fighting for the underdog, Carrie has served with an iron fist in a velvet glove. Al-

though we sit on opposite sides of the aisle, I have always respected her work and welcome the arrival of her son, Kendrick, to the Congress. My office and the entire Florida Delegation look forward to working with him. We are certain he will carry on Carrie's fine family tradition of lawmaking.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Florida's 17th Congressional District have been better served for Carrie's service in Congress. This body exists so that the people of our country have a voice in their government. The votes Floridians cast to send her to Washington brought this House reasoned judgment, energetic lawmaking and strong conviction. Today we honor her service to her country and wish her well.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE CHARLES ROSSOTTI

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service to our country that has been performed by our outgoing Internal Revenue Service Commissioner, Charles Rossotti.

Commissioner Rossotti was one of the longest serving Commissioners in the history of the Internal Revenue Service and the first to have a five-year term as recommended in the landmark IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1988. During his tenure, Commissioner Rossotti provided the IRS with the leadership it needed as it went through the most dramatic change in its history. The structural and cultural reforms he implemented will have a positive impact on both the IRS and taxpayers for many years to come.

Under Commissioner Rossotti's leadership, the IRS was reorganized into four divisions, each of which is responsible for a specific segment of taxpayers. This model allows taxpayers to receive expert and personalized service and permits the IRS to more efficiently use its resources. Another significant accomplishment under Commissioner Rossotti's watch is the expanded ability to exchange data electronically. During the last tax season, nearly one in three Form 1040s was filed electronically, and the IRS Web site has become one of the most popular sites on the Internet. Charles has managed the implementation of many taxpayer rights contained in the IRS restructuring law, such as the innocent spouse and collection due process protections, and has strengthened the role of the National Taxpayer Advocate.

Commissioner Rossotti's accomplishments have set the IRS on the right track to providing top-quality service and fairness to all taxpayers. He is to be commended for his efforts to transform the IRS into a performance-based organization, and dispel the belief that customer service and enforcement are mutually exclusive. Perhaps the broadest indicator of Commissioner Rossotti's impact on the IRS has been the steady rise in the public perception of the IRS in the last four years.

Mr. Speaker, Charles accomplished all of this at a time in his life when he was ready to leave full-time employment and enjoy a slower paced life. He and his wife, Barbara, put their

personal plans on hold for the past five years while he served our country nobly and well. He is a true citizen servant in the great tradition of the Roman hero Cincinnatus. Our country owes him a debt of gratitude for his outstanding public service. We wish Charles and Barbara the very best.

FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE IN CONGRESS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on my last 12 years here in United States Congress. I have enjoyed this experience and consider it to be one of the most gratifying opportunities of my life. I am grateful for the people of the Third District of Indiana who allowed me to serve with such intelligent, honorable and talented people. It is my hope that we have made some strides in making the lives of Americans better and more prosperous for the future. As I leave this body, one of my regrets will be that this institution did not set more of a priority on scheduling, which is essential to a balanced, family and professional life. With a quote, I would like to point to the following example of our colleagues across the Atlantic who have set a family-friendly precedent as part of their agenda.

Winston Churchill once said, "There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues of human society, are created, strengthened and maintained."

According to an article in the New York Times, Members of the British Parliament recently reaffirmed their commitment to this principle. The House of Commons voted to end a centuries old tradition of late-night sessions, moving the start of business up to 11:30 a.m. from 2:30 p.m., and declaring that the latest a session can go is 7:30 p.m. This is three hours earlier than the usual closing time. This vote apparently came after a nine-hour debate that ended at midnight.

This schedule is all too familiar to us here in the United States Congress. We have had more than our fair share of late nights. Some of these nights have been essential, especially when we are considering measures on how to combat the war on terrorism or balance the budget. Oftentimes, these sessions are indeed vital. However, more often than not, there was no compelling reason to be in session so late.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the hard work of my colleagues during this 107th Congress and past Congresses. I am, however, concerned about the impact of inefficient scheduling on our spouses and children. This ritual has become a norm in this governing. We have struggled through many late nights only to accomplish very little at times and only to disappoint our families when we cannot get on a plane to get home or make it back in time to tuck our children into bed.

As Co-chairs of the Members and Family Committee, my friend, the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. PICKERING, and I have worked with the Committee to make it possible to mesh family time with Congressional business. We have hosted dinners and movie nights and brought in speakers to make this body a more